

DECEMBER SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER



ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The church's Christmas party on December 17th will be here before you know it! There is still time to sign up for the party. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. If you are unable to add your "John Hancock", then call Claudia with your reservation by December 6th. The sign up for going to the Peoria Area Civic Chorale's "An American Christmas" has passed, but let Mary Jane know you are interested in case someone signed up can't attend.

The party begins after the church service and will have a lunch catered by The Cookery in Morton. The cost is \$16 per person payable to Claudia (make any checks out to our church) by that Sunday. The menu is:

Assorted Fruit
Chicken Salad Wrap
Beef & Cheddar on Onion Roll
Vegetable Penne Pasta
Kitchen Potato Chips
Assorted Cookies
Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade

There will also be a gift exchange that is optional. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 that is suitable for male or female and is Christmassy.

Hope you can join us on the 17th. Our Christmas parties are always enjoyable and with your there, it'll be even nicer! ☺



TOYS FOR TOTS

Don't forget that the local mission project for December is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Marines' Toys for Tots Christmas project. The collection box is located by the entrance door in the fellowship room. If you want to

give a toy or two but are unable to get out and purchase any, then please see Lori Lewis (soon) and she'll be glad to shop for you.

Toys should be dropped off by the 17th—by the day of our party. Don't forget toys are given to children of all ages—from infants to teens.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

After church service on December 10th there will be a Congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to elect two members to serve on Session for the next three years. Jim Grant and Andy Ulavege are the current Session members whose terms are expiring. Our thanks go out to both of them for taking the time to help our church keep moving along!



CHRISTMAS EVE

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and with that in mind, Session discussed whether to have the 10:00 morning service and our traditional Candlelight service or just the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. After much discussion it was decided to have just the 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. So no 10:00 a.m. church service.

To many of us in the church it has always felt so special being in our barn on Christmas Eve. As we all know, Jesus began life in a stable and to celebrate his birth in a similar environment gives great meaning to the night.

Please feel free to invite your family and friends to join us at The Barn for our beautiful and meaningful service on the 24th. Following the service plan on staying for some hot wassail and Christmas cookies during a time of fellowship.

SPEAKING OF COOKIES...

Please feel free to contribute a dozen or so Christmas cookies or candy for the fellowship time on Christmas Eve. Please though bring them on disposable plates or dishes to make clean up easier afterwards. Thank you!

OTHER CHURCH SERVICES

Please note that there will not be any church service on Christmas Day. Hopefully you'll be able to spend that day with family and or friends. There will be a service on the 31st of December at the normal time of 10:00. It is a Fifth Sunday service, but unlike the other Fifth Sundays we will not be having this service with the church in Washington. (Those Sundays will probably continue in 2018.)

RECIPE CORRECTION

In last month's Silo, a recipe was included for a Three Ingredient Pumpkin Spread. There was an omission of an item in the recipe and that was some instant pudding. So the following is the corrected Pumpkin Spread:

3 INGREDIENT AUTUMN PUMPKIN SPREAD (Submitted by Helen Claver)

- 1-15/16 ounce canned pumpkin
- 1-8 to 16 ounce Cool Whip (Helen used closer to 8 oz.)
- 1 small package instant vanilla pudding
- 1-2 tsp. pumpkin spice (to taste)

Thoroughly mix the ingredients together until well blended. Chill. Serve with cinnamon graham crackers, honey graham crackers or vanilla wafers.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

December 4—Ruben Mangels
December 20—Rowen Wiker
December 23—Gloria Berry



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

December 17—Linda & John Harbaugh



KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lois & Gary Mort—for better health for both of them and for Lois to be back at church soon.

Linda Harbaugh—to stay healthy.

John Harbaugh—recovering from successful shoulder surgery.

Edna Johnson—she's through with chemotherapy, but needs her strength to return.

Dorothy & Pete Vallosio—for continued good health with more energy and strength.

Barb Necessary—for pain free health.

JANUARY SILO SOUNDINGS

Please remember to get all information for the 2018 January Silo Soundings Newsletter turned in by Wednesday, December 27th. Those that will be receiving the printed copy will have them mailed as I will be away on December 31st.



Humbug to Alleluia

"*What reason have you to be merry?*" scoffs Scrooge in the classic Christmas tale by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Tale*. With the increased pressures of rolling out of Thanksgiving just to run full speed into Christmas you may feel like Scrooge. Christmas? Humbug?

Maybe you can't afford "Christmas." Maybe you've lost - or never had - loved ones. Maybe you wished your loved ones were someone else's. The simple fact is that problems are often aggravated by the busyness and togetherness the holidays bring.

That's why the truth needs to sink in: Christmas is special because of Christ. Decorations and gifts can add to the celebration, but they must not overshadow the ultimate gift, of which all the other gifts are a symbol. The cradle and the Cross enable us to experience true joy, to cherish the blessing of relationships, and to have hope for a Christmas during which we can say "hallelujah" - praise the Lord.

Traditionally, Advent is a period of preparation. It is the four Sundays before Christmas. It is observed in most denominations by hundreds of thousands of Christians throughout the world.

We celebrate and recognize Christ's emergence in the world meaningfully celebrating his first coming, but Advent points to Christ's second coming as a way of renewing our anticipation of that great day.

We're all going to be busy. In the next four weeks, let's not take our foot off of life's accelerator, but let's not forget to enjoy the ride.

Peace,

Mike